

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the courtesies extended to Applicant's undersigned attorney during the September 21, 2006 and October 25, 2006 telephone interviews, during which allowability of claim 14 was discussed. Reconsideration of this application and the rejection of claims 1, 3-9 and 11-14 are respectfully requested. Applicant has attempted to address every objection and ground for rejection in the Office Action dated June 27, 2006 (Paper No. 20060623), which has been made Final, and believes the application is now in condition for allowance, or in the alternative, in better form for appeal. The claims have been amended to more clearly describe the present invention.

Claims 1-8 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, because the Examiner contends that the claims contain subject matter which was not described in the specification at the time the application was filed. Applicant has cancelled claims 1-13 and respectfully submits that the rejection of claims 1-8 is moot. Further, Applicant has amended claim 14 to remove the "integrally formed" language and submits that as amended, the claim is consistent with the subject matter described in the specification. Applicant submits that as recognized by the Examiner, amended claim 14 is in allowable form. Therefore, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claim 14.


Claims 1, 3, 4, 6 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Crittenden, et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,325,954). In addition, claims 1 and 3-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by

Paul (U.S. Pat. No. 5,340,518). Finally, claims 9 and 11-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Gonda et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 2,655,978). Applicant has cancelled claims 1-13 and respectfully submits that the rejection of claims 1-13 is moot.

In view of the above amendments, the application is respectfully submitted to be in allowable form, or in the alternative, in better form for appeal. Allowance of the rejected claims is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner discover there are remaining issues which may be resolved by a telephone interview, she is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

By 
Rebecca L. Uryga
Registration No. 53,713

Customer No. 24978
October 25, 2006
Suite 2500
300 S. Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60606-6501
Telephone: (312) 360-0080
Facsimile: (312) 360-9315